



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Philippines

Agricultural Situation

Agriculture Grows 3.17 Percent in First Half 2002

Approved by:

Michael D. Woolsey

US Embassy

Prepared by:

Perfecto G. Corpuz

Report Highlights:

Philippine agriculture slowed to a 3.17 percent expansion in the first six months of 2002 after posting a 4.32 percent growth rate during the same period last year. This year's growth was fueled mainly by good production and higher farmgate prices. All agricultural subsectors registered production gains during the period.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Manila [RP1], RP

According to data from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), Philippine agriculture posted a 3.17 percent growth during the first six months of 2002 with all subsectors registering positive gains. The expansion was mainly the result of good production as well as higher farmgate prices. The growth rate, however, was slower than the 4.32 expansion during the same period last year.

Among the major crops, only corn, coconut and coffee, declined from their year ago levels. Mango's had the most dramatic expansion at 8.57 percent followed by abaca and tobacco with growth rates of 4.75 and 4.27 percent, respectively. "Other Crops" had mixed performances with onions growing dramatically at 19.67 percent from last year's level while other fibercrops expanding by a significant 30.27 percent during the period. Declining growth rates were observed for rubber (-2.26), mungbean (-2.02), camote (-0.66) and peanuts (-0.11).

Livestock production accelerated from 2.62 percent in the first half of 2001 to 3.42 percent during the same period this year. Water buffalos and the hog industries were the main drivers with growth rates of 5.59 and 3.99 percent, respectively. Cattle output grew by a feeble 0.14 percent and goats expanded by 1.57 percent in the first semester of this year. Only dairy livestock contracted (-5.50 percent) in the first six months of 2002.

The poultry subsector which includes chicken, ducks, and their respective eggs more than doubled its output from 7.06 percent last year to 14.46 percent in the first six months of 2002. Chicken, chicken eggs, and duck eggs all grew significantly with double-digit growth rates of 15.30, 16.23, and 10.05 percent, respectively.

Fisheries output slightly declined to 5.36 percent in the first half of this year from 5.60 percent during the same period the previous year. Only commercial fishing output grew from 3.97 percent in the first semester of 2001 to reach 11.18 percent in the first half of this year. Municipal fisheries and aquaculture both slowed down from their previous growth rates to settle at 3.65 and 2.90 percent, respectively, during the January to June period of this year.

On the average, farmgate prices rose by 3.67 percent in the first six months of this year compared to the same period last year with the greatest price increase (10.14) realized in the poultry subsector.